



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
*FOIA Service Center*

May 28, 2019

Austin Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: FOIA Request No. 19-00329-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is an interim response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated November 9, 2018 and received in this office on November 13, 2018. Your request was forwarded to the appropriate offices to search for documents that may be responsive to your request: Office of the Secretary (OS), Office of Legislation & Congressional Affairs (OLCA), Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Office of the Under Secretary (OUS), Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Communication & Outreach (OCO) and Federal Student Aid (FSA).

You requested:

- All records reflecting communications (including email correspondence, attachments to emails, notes or summaries of phone calls, calendar entries, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes) of any of the officials listed in Column A and containing any of the terms in Column B:

Column A (Education Officials)	Column B (Search Terms)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretary Betsy DeVos and any confidential assistants or schedulers acting on her behalf</li><li>• Josh Venable and any confidential assistants or schedulers acting on his behalf</li><li>• Ebony Lee</li><li>• Robert “Bob” Eitel</li><li>• Jana Toner</li><li>• James “Jim” Manning</li><li>• Nathan “Nate” Bailey</li><li>• Amber McCloskey</li><li>• Diane Auer Jones</li><li>• Lynn Mahaffie</li><li>• Frank Brogan</li><li>• Kathleen Smith</li><li>• Michael Brickman</li><li>• Adam Kissel</li><li>• Brandon Sherman</li><li>• Jeffrey “Justin” Riemer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACICS</li><li>• “Accrediting Council”</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kathryn Walker</li><li>• Alexandra Pena</li><li>• Elizabeth “Liz” Hill*</li><li>• Peter Oppenheim</li><li>• Carlos Muñiz</li><li>• Steven Menashi</li></ul>	
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This response pertains to records available in OCR. Attached to this email are eight pages of documents responsive your request. The documents provided are:

- Documents pertaining to Brandon Sherman.

However, certain information has been withheld according to FOIA exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6), specified below:

- Records or portions of records relating to certain intra-agency information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) of the FOIA. This exemption permits the withholding of inter- or intra-agency information that could be withheld under civil discovery, including information subject to the deliberative process, attorney-client, or attorney-work product privileges.
- Records or portions of records relating to personal information is exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) of the FOIA. Disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

In addition, the staff in OESE informed the FOIA Service Center that, after a thorough search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your request.

At this time, the Department is continuing to process your request and your FOIA request case file remains open. It will not close until the Department provides you with a response regarding outstanding responsive documents. Our final release letter will contain information related to your appeal rights of the agency’s decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Service Center at (202) 401-8365 or via e-mail at [EDFOIAManager@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAManager@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

*Arthur Caliguiran*

Arthur Caliguiran  
FOIA Analyst  
FOIA Service Center

Enclosure

**From:** Brickman, Michael  
**To:** Jones, Diane; Kissel, Adam; Sherman, Brandon; Lee, Ebony; Pena, Alexandra; Etel, Robert; Brogan, Frank  
**Subject:** FW: Quality Assurance of HE Systems and Other Quality Assurance-Related Issues  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 10:18:45 AM

FYI on 6/20/18

**From:** CHEAmail [mailto:cheamail@chea.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 9:12 AM  
**To:** Brickman, Michael  
**Subject:** Quality Assurance of HE Systems and Other Quality Assurance-Related Issues



May 1, 2018

CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) *International QA in the News* provides the latest briefings, articles, reports, op-eds and reviews about quality assurance around the world.

### Accreditation and Federal Policy 2018: An Invitational Summer Roundtable

June 20, 2018 • Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill • Washington, DC

table



*Accreditation and Federal Policy 2018* is a one-day roundtable focusing on the latest policy developments, including legislation and federal regulations, affecting higher education accreditation.

The Invitational Roundtable is open to CHEA member institutions and CHEA-and U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting organizations. It is the only summer event that CHEA will be hosting

[Click here](#) for more information, including a registration form and link to the conference hotel for reservations.

## HEADLINES

[Cheating at UK's Top Universities Soars by 40%](#) (*The Guardian*, April 29, 2018) "Institutions including Oxford and Cambridge are under scrutiny as number of academic misconduct cases surges."

[World Bank Pledges \\$90 Million for Cambodia Education](#) (*Thompson Reuters Foundation News*, April 27, 2018) "The World Bank says the money will go to fund the Higher Education Institutions Capacity Improvement Project for a period of six years, and is aimed at improving the quality of education and research at targeted institutions, broaden access to higher education, and improve governance."

['Time Up,' NQA Warns Bogus Colleges](#) (*New Era* [Namibia], April 27, 2018) "In its drive to ensure consumer protection for those investing in education and safeguard the country's reputation, the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) has once again cautioned bogus education institutions to desist from robbing citizens of their hard-earned money in exchange of fake qualifications."

[BAC Launches Updated Independent Higher Education Scheme](#) (*FE News*, April 27, 2018) "The British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (BAC) released their updated and revised independent higher education (IHE) scheme. The scheme is designed for institutions that offer full degree programmes and is aligned to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area."

[Croatia to Stop Recognising University Diplomas from Bosnia and Serbia?](#) (*Total Croatia News*, April 24, 2018) "The recognition of foreign higher education qualifications in Europe and in the EU member states is carried out according to the so-called Lisbon Convention."

[Regional Dons Meet to Discuss Quality of University Lecturers](#) (*The New Times* [Rwanda], April 23, 2018) "The focus on graduate training and supervision and the aim of establishing regional standards in this field is part and parcel of the longstanding and on-going collaboration of [the German Academic Exchange

Service] (DAAD) and [the Inter-University Council for East Africa] (IUCEA) on quality assurance in higher education."

**[How Internal Quality Assurance Can Drive Success](#)** (*University World News*, April 20, 2018)

"Governments are increasingly engaged in the quality control of higher education institutions and-or their programmes through periodic external assessments, but higher education institutions are also responding to quality concerns by setting up internal quality assurance mechanisms for the purpose of monitoring and management."

\*\*\*\*

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Council for Higher Education Accreditation/CHEA International Quality Group | One Dupont Circle, NW | Suite 510 | Washington | DC | 20036

**From:** [Shields, Michael L. \(OGC\)](#)  
**To:** [Sherman, Brandon](#)  
**Subject:** New Entrant OGE e-Form 278 Public Financial Disclosure Report: Ethics Advice  
**Date:** Friday, November 03, 2017 12:38:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [ED1-#11721-v1-Request for Approval of Outside Activity WORD .doc](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Brandon,

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the foregoing ethics advice.

Sincerely,  
Michael

Michael L. Shields, Esq.  
Attorney, Ethics Division  
Office of the General Counsel  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Room 6E205  
Washington, D.C. 20202  
(202) 401-6233  
[Michael.L.Shields@ed.gov](mailto:Michael.L.Shields@ed.gov)

**From:** [Sherman, Brandon](#)  
**To:** [Brogan, Frank](#); [Jackson, Candice](#); [Jones, Diane](#); [Kissel, Adam](#)  
**Subject:** DEAC Regional Meeting Discussion  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 4:23:31 PM

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On Monday, I attended DEAC's East Coast Regional Meeting. The meeting focused on Section 504 (web accessibility) and Title IX (sexual misconduct) issues.

Dr. Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz, Dean of Student Learning and Title IX Coordinator at Moorpark College, led the discussion. A few observations:

(b)(5)

**Privileged and Confidential**

Brandon S. Sherman  
Senior Counsel to the Assistant Secretary  
Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office: 202-260-1115  
Mobile: 202-264-9830  
[Brandon.Sherman@ed.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sherman@ed.gov)